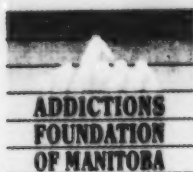


Clients Of The Impaired Drivers Program With Subsequent DWI Offences A Comparative Analysis



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I) BACKGROUND & METHODOLOGY

1.1) Background:

This report examines recidivism rates of former clients of the **Impaired Drivers Program (IDP)** provided by the **Addictions Foundation of Manitoba**. It then undertakes a comparative analysis of clients based on recidivism.

1.2) Methodology:

The AFM maintains electronically stored client information on all IDP clients. This includes demographic characteristics, social indicators, information related to the DWI (Driving While Impaired) charge, other criminal justice data, and information regarding clients' alcohol or other drug consumption. This study sought to determine the frequency with which clients, who attended the IDP in 1995-96, reoffended. However, instead of basing recidivism rates on those clients who were readmitted to the IDP, which would generally underestimate recidivism, the AFM sought data available through the **Division of Driver and Vehicle Licensing (DDVL)**, which would track all former clients who had a DWI charge subsequent to their attendance at the IDP.

The AFM's Research Unit generated a list of all IDP clients who attended the program during the study period (1995/96), highlighting the unique identifier employed by the AFM (i.e. an alpha-numeric client code). Every fourth client code was randomly selected to be included in the study sample. The Manitoba Drivers License numbers for these clients (N=527) were then provided to the IDP which searched through DDVL records for matches. Once matches were found, an investigation was made regarding whether there had been DWI charges subsequent to each client's last contact with the IDP. Notes were also

made regarding the nature of that DWI charge, and the date on which the charge occurred.

1.3) The Scope Of This Study:

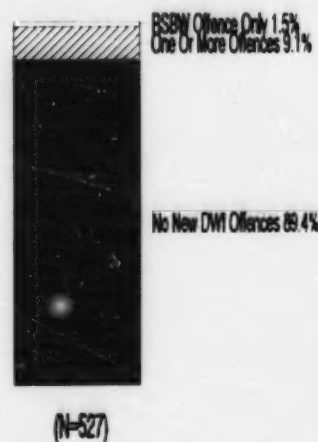
This is a preliminary study. It includes global DWI recidivism rates of former IDP clients. Three subgroups were constructed for this study: clients who had not reoffended since 1995-96, those who were solely issued a Roadside Breathalyser Suspension Warning (RSBW), and those who had a DWI charge under the Criminal Code. In addition to tracking recidivism rates, this study also undertakes a brief comparative analysis of client characteristics, consumption and other criminal code activities.

II) THE STUDY FINDINGS:

2.1) Recidivism Rates:

From 1995-96 up until December, 1998, 9.1% of the IDP clients in this sample

Figure 1 IDP Clients (1995-96)
By Offence Category

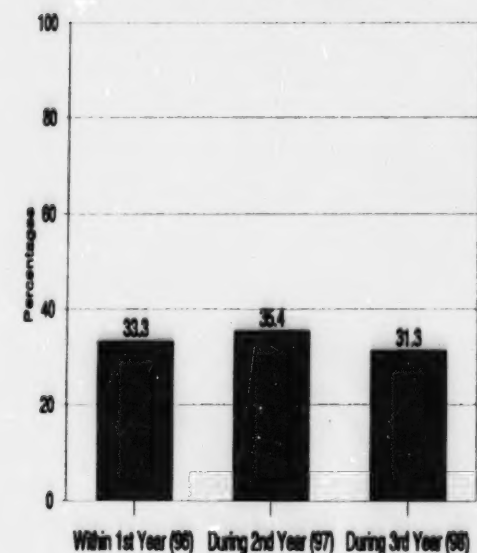


had a subsequent DWI charge under the Criminal Code (Figure 1). Another 1.5% were solely issued RSBWs, bringing the total percentage of clients who reoffended to 10.6%. The remaining 89.4% of these clients did not receive an additional charge, during this period, based on DDVL data.

2.2) The Time-Frame Of The DWI Charge:

Tracking the duration from the time when these clients left the program until the time when they experienced their DWI charge, the distribution is relatively consistent (Figure 2). One-third of the

Figure 2 How Much Time Passed Between Client Closure And The DWI Charge?



(N=40)

clients who reoffended did so within the first year following the IDP (during 1996-97), 35.4% reoffended within the second year (during 1997-98), and the remaining 31.3% reoffended within the third year following the IDP (during 1998-99).

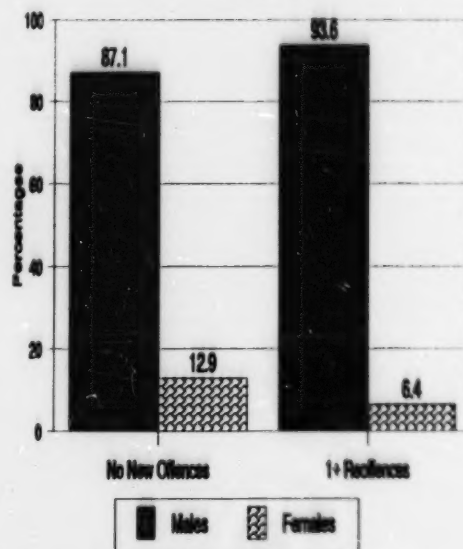
2.3) Client Characteristics:

There are a number of demographic characteristics that are analyzed in this study, correlating with clients' reoffence histories. Given the small number of clients who were issued RSBWs, these individuals have been excluded from the remainder of this report, resulting in a final sample of 519.

1) Client Gender:

In general, the proportion of male to female clients in the Impaired Drivers Program tends to run approximately 85% to 15%. From the data, however, it appears that male clients are somewhat more likely to reoffend than are female clients (Figure 3). In terms of those who had not reoffended, 87.1% were male and 12.9% female. However, turning to those who had reoffended, 93.6% were male and only 6.4% female.

Figure 3 IDP Clients' Gender By Reoffence Category

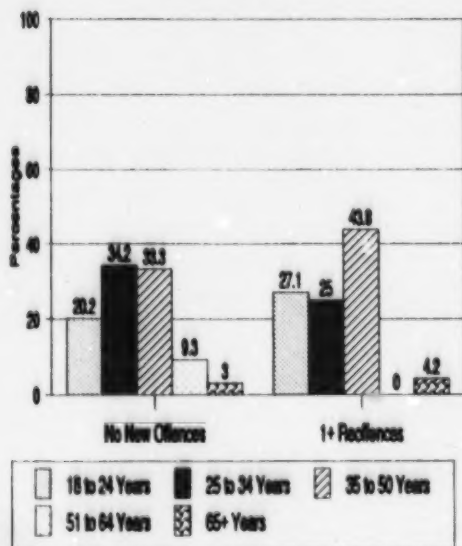


(N=458; 47) Excludes 'RSBW Only'

ii) Client Age:

When age categories of clients in these two groups are compared, some minor differences emerge (Figure 4). In this instance, two thirds of the former clients who had not reoffended were 25 to 50

Figure 4 IDP Clients' Ages By Recidivism Category



(N=471; 46) Excludes RSBW Only

years of age, while another 12.3% were ages 51 and older. The remaining 20.2% were between 18 and 24 years of age. In terms of those who had additional DWI charges, they were most likely to be 35 to 50 years of age (43.8%), with approximately one-quarter of the remaining clients being either 18 to 24 years or 25 to 34 years. Only 4.2% of these clients were over 51 years of age.

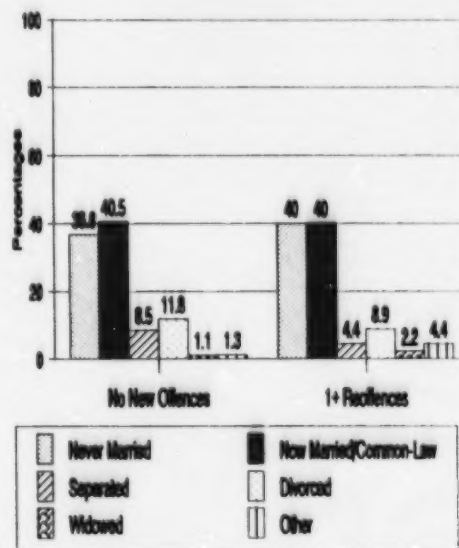
These differences tend to lessen when comparisons regarding average ages are made. The average age for the total sample is 35.7 years. The average age of former clients who had not reoffended

is 35.9 compared with an average age of 33.8 years for former IDP clients with a subsequent DWI charge.

iii) Client Marital Status:

There were also few differences in marital status when the two groups are compared (Figure 5). In both instances, approximately 40% of these clients had never been married, and a similar percentage were married or in common-law relationships.

Figure 5 IDP Clients' Marital Status By Recidivism Category

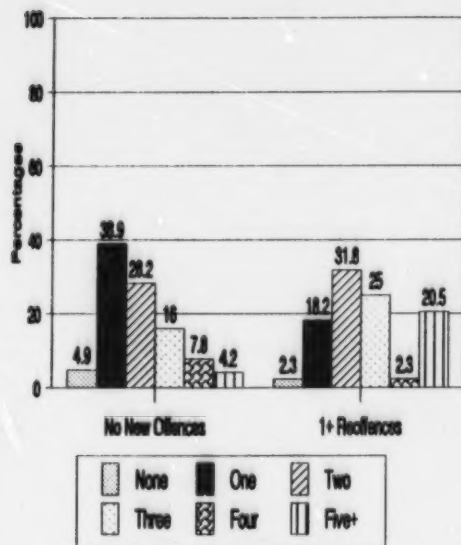


(N=457; 46) Excludes RSBW Only

iv) Number Of Jobs Held:

As one measure of client stability, clients are asked about the number of jobs they have held in the preceding five years. From the data, it appears that IDP clients, who have not reoffended, are more likely to report job stability than are their counterparts (Figure 6). That is,

**Figure 6 Number Of Jobs Held Past 5 Years
By Reoffence Category**



(N=450; 44) Excludes RSBW Only

clients who had not reoffended were more likely than their counterparts to report having one job during the preceding five years (38.9% and 18.2%, respectively). Conversely, those who had reoffended were more likely to have reported having four or more jobs during this time-period (22.8% and 12.0%, respectively).

v) Criminal Justice History:

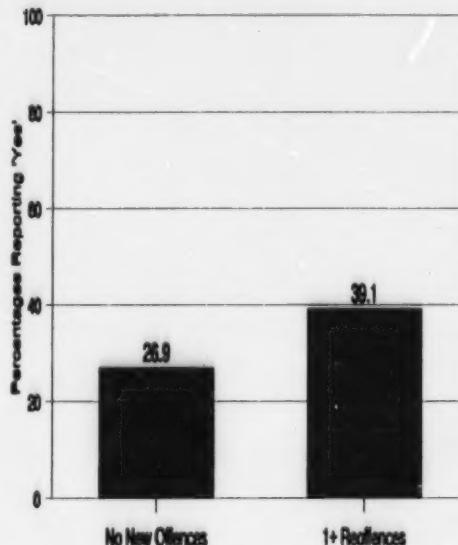
There are a number of indicators that are tracked regarding clients' criminal justice history:

- Clients Being Charged With Other Offences:**

Clients of the IDP are asked whether they have ever been charged with committing a crime, excluding DWI offences. Clients who have reoffended are more likely than other clients to

report this occurrence (Figure 7). Specifically, 39.1% of those who had reoffended also had other charges against them, compared with 26.9% of those who had not reoffended since leaving the IDP in 1995-96.

**Figure 7 Have IDP Clients Been Charged With
Other Offences? By Reoffence Category**



(N=457; 46) Excludes RSBW Only

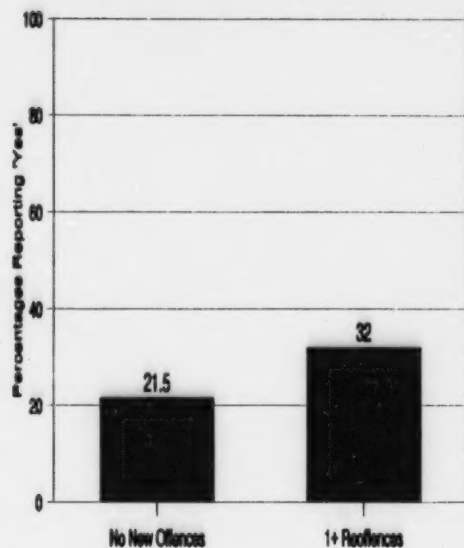
- Involvement Of Alcohol/Other Drugs In The Charge:**

Of those clients who had been charged with a non-DWI offence, those who also had another DWI charge, subsequent to the program, were more likely to report that alcohol or other drugs had been involved in the non-DWI charge, than were other clients in this study (32.0% and 21.5%, respectively) (Figure 8).

- Clients Being Incarcerated For Other Charges:**

Of the clients who were charged with

Figure 8 If Charged, Were Alcohol/Drugs Involved? By Recidivism Category



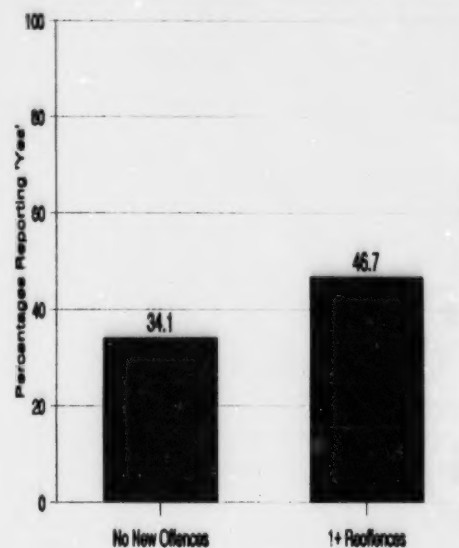
(N=233; 25) Excludes RSBW Only

non-DWI charges, those who had additional DWI charges were more likely to have been incarcerated than were clients in this study who had not had new DWI charges (Figure 9). Just under half of the clients who had subsequent DWI charges (46.7%), who were charged with other (non-DWI) offences were incarcerated as a result, compared with 34.1% of their counterparts who had no new DWI charges.

- Clients Being Incarcerated For The DWI Charge:**

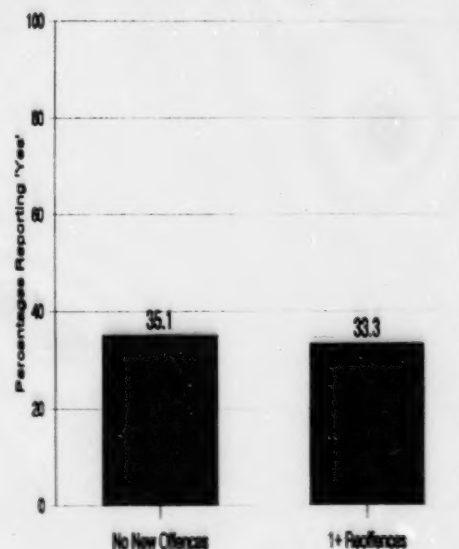
At the point when clients first enter the IDP, they are asked whether they have ever been incarcerated due to their DWI charges. There were no differences in the responses to this question, when comparisons are made between these two groups of clients (Figure 10). Approximately one-third of the clients in both groups reported having been

Figure 9 If Charged/Convicted, Have IDP Clients Ever Been Jailed? By Recidivism Category



(N=437; 45) Excludes RSBW Only

Figure 10 Have IDP Clients Been Jailed Because Of Impaired Driving? By Recidivism Category



(N=282; 30) Excludes RSBW Only

incarcerated for a DWI charge: 35.1% of those who had not reoffended since he program, and 33.3% of those who had.

vi) **Number Of DWI Charges:**

The IDP tracks the number of DWI charges that clients have preceding the 'current' charge, in two ways: the number of life-time charges; and the number of charges clients have received during the preceding five years.

• **Life-Time DWI Charges:**

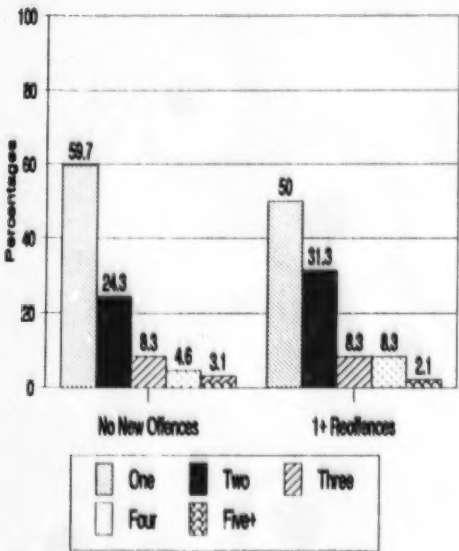
Comparing life-time DWI charges reported by clients in both groups, the first thing that becomes apparent is that most clients reported a single previous charge (Figure 11). This was more

additional life-time DWI charge. An additional 24.3% of these clients reported two life-time charges. Finally, 16.0% of these clients reported three or more charges. When it came to clients who had reoffended, half reported having only one additional life-time DWI charge, 31.3% reported having two charges, and 18.7% reported three or more charges.

• **DWI Charges Past Five Years:**

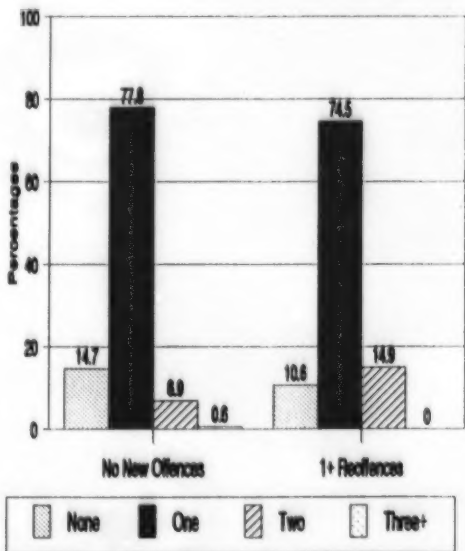
Regardless of the group they were in, about three-quarters of all clients reported one DWI charge during the five years preceding their last entry into the IDP (Figure 12). Another 7.5% of the clients who had not reoffended following the IDP reported two or more charges during this time-frame, compared with 14.9% of those who had reoffended subsequent to the program.

Figure 11 Number Of Life-Time DWI Charges
(As Of 1995-96) By Reoffence Category



(N=47; 47) Excludes TSSW Only

Figure 12 Number Of DWI Charges Past 5 Years
(As Of 1995-96) By Reoffence Category



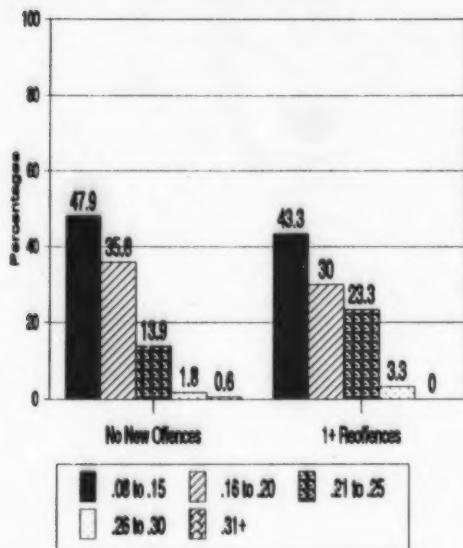
(N=464; 47) Excludes TSSW Only

obvious for clients who had not reoffended since 1995-96, with 59.7% of these individuals reporting a single

vii) BAC Last Charge:

Clients who had not reoffended were somewhat more likely to report lower BACs, regarding the charge that brought them to the AFM in 1995-96 (Figure 13). Just under half of the clients who had not

Figure 13 IDP Clients By BAC Last Charge And Reoffence Category



(N=338; 30) Excludes RSBW Only

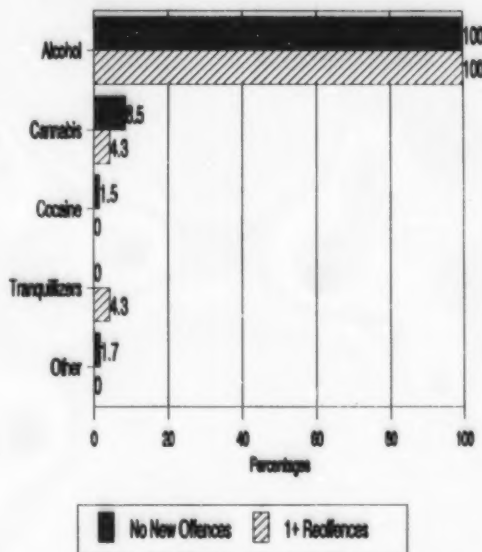
reoffended reported BACs from .08 to .15, and 35.8% reported BACs between .16 and .20. The remaining 16.3% of these clients reported BACs of .21 or higher. In terms of clients who had reoffended, 43.3% reported BACs between .08 and .15, 30.0% reported BACs between .16 and .20, and 26.6% reported BACs exceeding .21. (Prior to 1996-97 information regarding BAC levels was self-reported. Some under-reporting is therefore anticipated. As of 1996-97 this information has been taken directly from the Drivers Abstract.)

viii) Drugs Of Choice:

Clients are asked to list their first, second

and third drugs of choice as part of the assessment process. There was little difference in the drugs of choice reported by clients, regardless of whether or not they had reoffended (Figure 14).

Figure 14 IDP Clients' Primary & Secondary Drugs Of Choice By Reoffence Category



(N=459; 47. Multiple Responses Are Allowed.) Excludes RSBW Only

All clients listed alcohol as a drug of choice. Other drugs were noted by much smaller groups of clients. Cannabis was identified as a drug of choice by 8.5% of those who had not reoffended, and 4.3% of those who had reoffended. Tranquilizers were identified by none of those who had reoffended and 4.3% of those who had. Cocaine was cited by a negligible percentage of respondents (1.5% of those who had not reoffended).

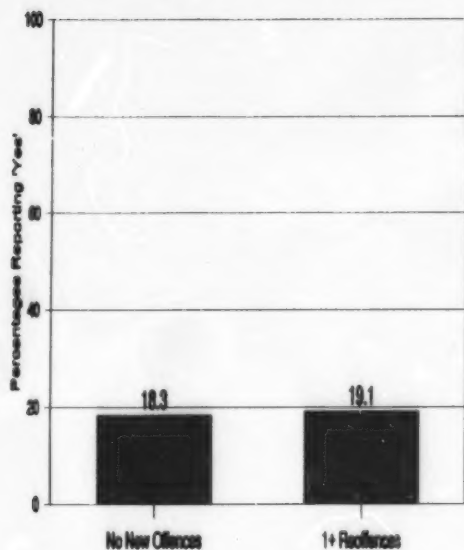
ix) Previous Involvement With Chemical Treatment:

• Attending Programs:

Twenty percent of all clients in this study

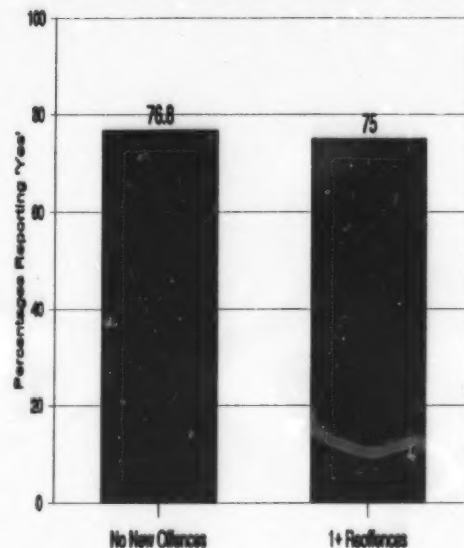
had attended a chemical treatment program prior to attending the IDP (Figure 15).

Figure 15 Have Clients Attended Chemical Treatment Program? By Recidivism Category



(N=400; 47) Excludes RSBW Only

Figure 16 If Clients Attended Program, Did They Complete It? By Recidivism Category



(N=402; 8) Excludes RSBW Only

• **Completing Programs:**

Similarly, clients in both groups, who had attended a chemical treatment program, were equally likely to report having completed that program (Figure 16). In this instance, 76.8% of those who had not reoffended, and who had entered chemical treatment, completed that program, compared with 75.0% of those who had reoffended.

x) **Client Referrals:**

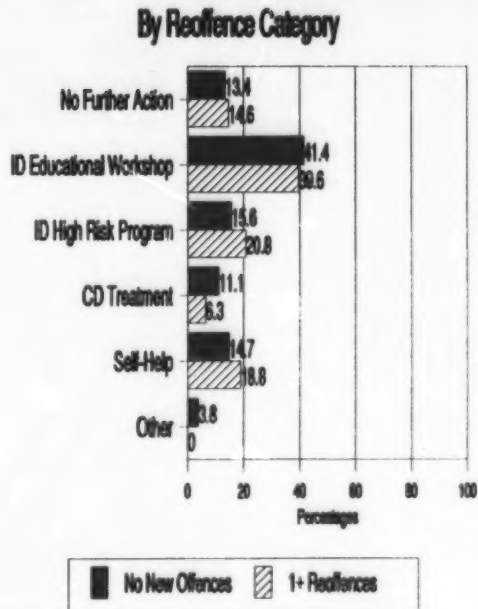
There are a number of referral options for IDP clients following the assessment process. This includes IDP Educational Workshop and High Risk Program, AFM treatment programs, and referrals to

external agencies or programs. (A description of these two programs can be found at the end of this report.)

Additionally, some clients may not be referred to any program or service. When the referrals made on behalf of clients in the two study groups are compared, there are relatively few differences (Figure 17).

The largest percentage of clients in both groups were referred to the IDP Educational Workshop. This includes 41.4% of those who had not reoffended and 39.6% of those with a subsequent DWI charge. Thirteen percent of non-reoffenders had no further action recommended for them, compared with 14.6% of those who had reoffended. There is also similar consistencies with regard to the remaining referral options.

Figure 17 Where Were IDP Clients Referred?



(N=449; 48) Excludes RSBW Only

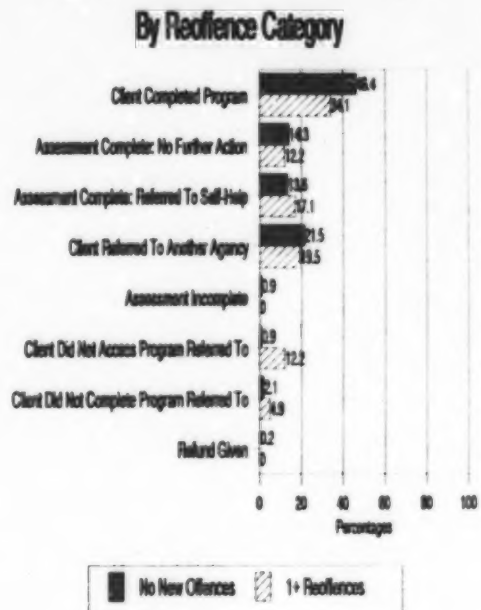
xi) Client Status Upon Closing:

The final analysis relates to client status upon closing (in 1995-96). This includes clients who completed the program, clients who require no further action, clients referred to self-help groups, those referred to another agency, and those who did not access, or complete, the program to which they were referred.

Forty-six percent of the clients who did not reoffend had completed the IDP in 1995-96 (Figure 18). This is compared with 34.1% of those who had reoffended following the program. Conversely, clients who had reoffended were more likely than their counterparts to have not accessed the program to which they were referred (12.2%, compared with 0.9% of those who had not reoffended). Clients who reoffended were twice as likely to not complete the program they

were referred to than their counterparts (4.9% and 2.1%, respectively).

Figure 18 Reasons IDP Client Files Closed



(N=427; 41) Excludes RSBW Only

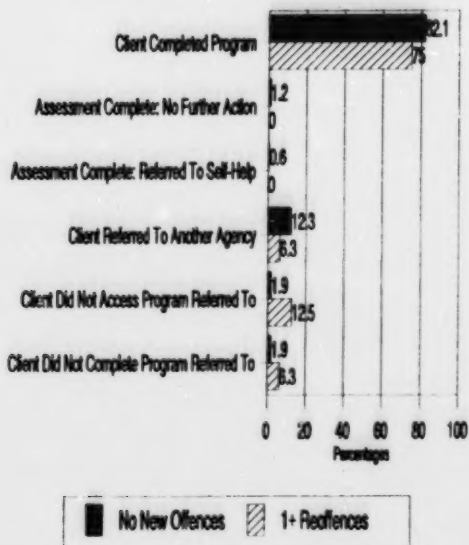
• Client Status Of Those In The IDP Workshop:

Clients referred to the Workshop were generally likely to complete that program, regardless of whether or not they had a DWI offence following the IDP (Figure 19). Those who had no new offences were twice as likely to be referred to another agency (12.3% compared with 6.3%). Those clients who had reoffended were considerably more likely than their counterparts to have not accessed or completed the program to which they were referred.

• Client Status Of Those In The IDP High Risk Program:

Of the clients who attended the IDP High

**Figure 19 Reasons IDP Client Files Closed
By Reoffence Category (WORKSHOP)**



(N=162; 16) Excludes 'RSBW Only'

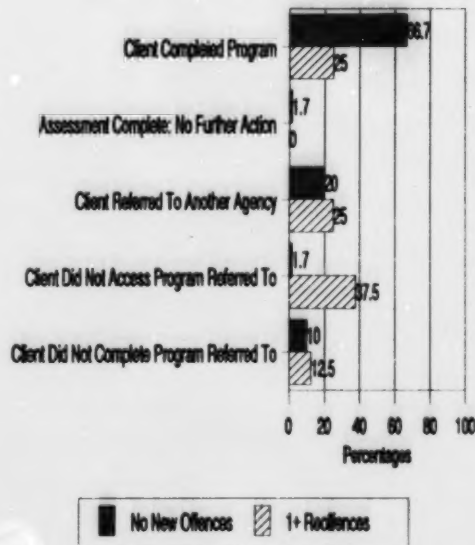
Risk Program, those who had not reoffended were more than twice as likely to have completed that program than were those who had reoffended (66.7% and 25.0%, respectively) (Figure 20).

Conversely, 37.5% of the reoffending clients did not access the program they were referred to, compared with 1.7% of the clients who had not reoffended.

III) FOLLOWING-UP ON CLIENTS FACING A SUBSEQUENT CHARGE:

Five of the 48 clients who were subsequently charged with DWI have since come through the IDP once again. Of these, one was referred to the AFM's Residential Treatment Program, two were referred to Community-Based Treatment for their consumption problems, and two

**Figure 20 Reasons IDP Client Files Closed
By Reoffence Category (HIGH RISK)**



(N=60; 8) Excludes 'RSBW Only'

were referred to the IDP High Risk Program. These last two clients did not complete that program.

It is believed that the remaining forty-three clients may have not yet contacted the AFM due to longer term suspensions arising from their multiple charges.

IV) SUMMARY:

4.1) Recidivism Rates:

The Impaired Drivers Program experienced a recidivism rate of 10.6% of the clients who attended the program in 1995-96. Of these, 9.1% had been charged with a DWI offence under the Criminal Code of Canada.

Of those who had reoffended, they were as likely to have been charged within the 1st, 2nd or 3rd year following the IDP.

4.2) Client Characteristics:

i) Gender:

Males were somewhat more likely than females to have been charged for a DWI offence following the Impaired Drivers Program.

ii) Age:

Clients who were charged with subsequent DWI were most likely to be 35 to 50 years of age.

iii) Number Of Jobs:

Clients who were charged subsequent to the program were more likely than their counterparts to report having had 5 or more jobs during the preceding five years.

4.3) Criminal Justice Involvement:

There were a number of differences between client groups when their criminal justice histories are examined.

- Clients who were charged with a subsequent DWI offence were more likely than their counterparts to have also been charged with other non-DWI offences;
- They were more likely to report that alcohol or other drugs were involved in the offence;
- Of those convicted on the charge, they were more likely to have been jailed as a result.

However, when it came to clients who had previously been jailed due to a DWI charge, there is no difference between client groups.

4.4) Number of Charges:

Clients who were charged with a subsequent DWI charge were somewhat

more likely than other clients in this study to have multiple charges prior to their 1995-96 IDP assessment. This includes both life-time DWI charges and the number of charges obtained in the preceding 5 years.

4.5) BAC Last Charge:

Clients charged with a DWI offence are more likely to report higher BACs. While 16.3% of the clients who had not been subsequently charged reported BACs exceeding .20, this was reported by 26.6% of the clients who had a subsequent charge.

4.6) Drugs Of Choice:

There is no difference in the drugs of choice indicated by clients, regardless of whether or not they had been charged again. Alcohol is a drug of choice of all clients, followed very distantly by cannabis, tranquilizers and cocaine.

4.7) Chemical Treatment Histories:

There is no difference in chemical treatment histories when clients in the two study groups are compared. In both cases, about 19% of these clients reported having entered a treatment program to deal with their alcohol or other drug problems.

Approximately three-quarters of these clients reported that they completed the program they entered.

4.8) Referrals Following Assessments:

Upon completion of the assessment process, IDP counsellors put forward a referral option. Similar percentages of clients were referred to the Educational Workshop and to the High Risk Program. Similar percentages of clients were also deemed to require no further action from the IDP. Clients who had not been

subsequently charged were actually somewhat more likely to have been referred, at that time, to a chemical dependency treatment program.

These findings lead to the conclusion that it may be difficult to predict which clients are most likely to have and be charged with a DWI offence.

4.9) Reason For File Closure:

Overall, clients who were not subsequently charged with DWI were more likely to have completed the Impaired Drivers Program than were their counterparts. Conversely, clients with a subsequent charge are less likely to access external programs to which they are referred. They are also somewhat less likely to complete those programs.

i) The Educational Workshop:

Clients who entered the Workshop generally completed that program, regardless of whether or not they had a subsequent charge. Those who had reoffended were more likely to not access or complete external programs to which they are referred.

ii) The High Risk Program:

Clients who attended the High Risk

Program, who had not subsequently been charged with DWI, were much likelier to have completed that program than are their counterparts. The latter were notably less likely to have accessed external programs.

THE NEED TO PREDICT DWI RECIDIVISM:

While a recidivism rate of 10.6% is a positive indicator that the Impaired Drivers Program is functioning well, it represents an unacceptable rate from a public safety perspective.

There is a need for a validated instrument that would help programs such as the IDP to predict, with some confidence, which clients may be at risk of reoffending.

One soft indicator that arose from this brief analysis may be client completion rates and follow-through. That is, it may be that the IDP can use completion of the High Risk Program, and the successful accessing of external programs, as one predictor of recidivism.

Continued research will be required to determine the best means of identifying drivers who are at high risk of reoffending.

Program Descriptions

The Educational Workshop: Clients referred to the IDP Educational Workshop have been assessed as being at risk of reoffending. The focus of this one-day workshop is to provide clients with the opportunity to plan how to provide future incidents of impaired driving.

The High Risk Program: Clients referred to the IDP High Risk Program have been assessed as being at risk with regard to their usage of alcohol and/or other drugs. The focus of the program is to provide clients with the opportunity to examine their chemical usage, and to determine what changes they need to make to address their related problems. As well, clients explore how to prevent further incidents of impaired driving. The average length of client involvement in this program is about nine hours over a four to six month period.